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U. S. Department of Agriculture

AND-12-41

Jan. 31, 1941

Part I - STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

BULGARIA: Indications are that during 1940 at least 3,970 tons of raw cotton destined for Germany and 400 tons destined for Italy entered Varna and Bourgas. In the same period at least 1,200 tons of Iranian cotton destined for Germany passed through those cities. Thus far in 1941 reports indicate that arrivals of Russian cotton destined for Germany amounted to 360 tons while another 700 tons were destined for Germany and Italy. Most of these shipments cross Bulgaria by rail, leaving the country at Dragoman on the Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier.

SPAIN: Indications are that the Spanish Government has approached the Argentine Government with a view to purchasing large quantities of wheat to be covered by long-term credits which would be liquidated in part by the sale of Spanish commodities to Argentina. The Spanish wheat situation is reported as very serious. The 1940 crop is estimated at less than 73 million bushels while normal consumption is placed at 177 million bushels. Indications are that the Spanish Government is prepared to mobilize its entire ocean-going mercantile fleet in order to insure a rapid and constant flow of wheat into Spain.

YUGOSLAVIA: Confirmation has been received of earlier reports that a Yugoslav delegation to Russia has completed arrangements for the delivery by Russia of 3,650 metric tons of raw cotton and 645 tons of cotton waste. Deliveries of the cotton waste will be completed by February 15.

EIRE: The Ministry of Agriculture stated on January 13 that the Government's goal was to bring about an increase of 1,000,000 acres in the area planted to crops for the 1941 harvest. The Minister indicated that the acreage expansion was necessary in order to offset losses in imports. Wheat will make up more than a third of the increased sowings and feedstuffs the balance. In addition, the percentage of flour extraction is to be increased from the present figure of 75 percent to at least 80 percent. An expansion in wheat acreage is being stimulated by a guarantee for the 1941 harvest. Some difficulty is anticipated in realizing the 1,000,000 acre increase in sowings because of the fact that a considerable proportion of the land in Eire has been used only for grazing purposes. The Government has decreed, however, that at least one-fifth of the arable land on every holding containing ten acres or more of arable land must be put under cultivation in 1941.

JAPAN: Reports indicate that the December 31 stocks of raw cotton owned and contracted for by Japanese spinners, including cotton in their warehouses and other storage places, plus cotton bought but not yet received, were equivalent to fifteen months' requirements at the then current rate of consumption.

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Part II - FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT SPECIALISTS GO TO CUBA FOR AGRICULTURAL SURVEY: Three Department specialists left last week for Havana where they will cooperate with Cuban officials in a study of Cuban farming conditions, with special regard to development of new crops for export to the United States or other parts of the Western Hemisphere. The survey is a result of the general program of aid to Cuban agriculture proposed by the Cuban Economic Mission to the U. S.

In the party are Garibaldi LaGuardia, AAA economist, William T. Shaddick, Assistant State director, FSA; and Dr. Paul G. Minneman, Foreign Service Officer on detail to the Department. At Havana, they are to meet H. F. Blaney, irrigation engineer of SCS, and Dr. Wilson Popenoe, tropical agriculturalist of the United Fruit Co., on detail with the USDA. LaGuardia is leader of the group. Particular attention will be given to development of irrigation, new export crops, and the development of a system of rural rehabilitation. The survey will take about two months.

FSA TO BUILD 200 HOMES FOR MUNITIONS WORKERS: Farm Security Administration has been authorized by Federal Works Agency to construct 200 family dwellings for workers in the projected powder and bag-loading plant at Radford, Va. The houses will be the first of 1,000 new dwellings planned to accommodate laborers brought to Radford from other communities. FSA began work on plans and specifications last week. The houses will be located in the Radford area in accordance with the regional housing pattern worked out last fall by the various land use planning committees in the area.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES ANNOUNCED ON O.F.A.R. PUBLICATIONS: First issue of "AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS," new publication of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, will be available early in February and monthly thereafter at 10 cents a copy or a subscription price of 75 cents a year. Available now in its new format is the January issue of "FOREIGN AGRICULTURE." It, too, sells for 10 cents a single copy, but the annual subscription rate is \$1 a year. Subscriptions should be sent to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS: STRAITS SETTLEMENTS: An official communique issued in Singapore states that contracts have been concluded with Thailand, Burma and Java for the whole of Malaya's rice requirements for 1941. Rice imports will be controlled exclusively by Government pools from which allocations will be made into normal channels of distribution. The objective of the control is to prevent a rice shortage and price increase.

FINLAND: Negotiations for a trade agreement with Russia are to be resumed early in February.

UNITED KINGDOM: The Ministry of Supply is reported as negotiating with Brazil for the bulk purchase of 100,000 bales of cotton.

Two agreements with Belgium relative to the Belgian Congo were signed on January 21. One was a purchase and the other a financial agreement. Under the purchase agreement the United Kingdom agrees to purchase during the year ended August 31, 1941, not less than specified amounts of raw cotton, palm kernels, copper, tin ore, copal, and all available supplies of palm oil. The purchase of other commodities is not excluded. On the contrary, the British Government will give "sympathetic consideration to the issuance of import licenses" for all Belgian Congo goods, which, upon importation, are to receive no less favorable customs treatment than goods from British colonial sources. The United Kingdom will attempt to provide shipping facilities for such imports.

The Belgian Congo will enact legislation against commercial relations with "the enemy," and will cooperate with the British Government in the application of any blockade measures applied at any time by the British Colonies of Africa. Under the financial agreement the Belgian Congo is brought within the Sterling Area and the official rate of the Congolese franc is pegged to the pound sterling. The Congo will adopt a system of quantitative control of imports, the United Kingdom guaranteeing either to supply all Congo needs from within the Sterling Area or to provide means of payment for goods not available in the Sterling Area.

ITALY: Cold weather has occasioned great hardship in Florence. Little coal is available and coal prices have increased greatly. Charcoal is unobtainable for days at a time. Fruits and vegetables are scarce and expensive. Freezing temperatures during December resulted in serious damage to carryover supplies of feedstuffs held on farms.

SWEDEN: Because of the growing shortage of fats, all supplies of imported fats were placed under governmental control on January 20.

RUSSIA: A Swiss trade delegation arrived in Moscow on January 20. Formal diplomatic negotiations for a trade agreement are expected in the near future.

